

NOTES ON EDUCATION.

Vanderbilt University has 420 students.

Charles S. Bradley, Bussey Professor of Law at Harvard, has resigned his position. His successor is to be Mr. James Barr Ames, a graduate of the University ten years ago.

F. Superintendent Groves, of Delaware, like many other wise men, holds that all schools the primary school requires not only the highest teaching power, but the rarest personal fitness.

Classes in the St. Louis graded schools are hereafter required to consist of at least twenty pupils. No special teacher of French is to be employed in the High school, and the expense of music is not to exceed \$500 in the high and normal schools.

The average monthly salary paid to male teachers in New-Jersey during the past year was \$650; female teachers received an average of \$5614. The total sum set apart for school purposes in that State this year is \$1,927,632.44—a decrease of a little more than \$78,000 from the total amount last year. The per capita appropriation this year is \$3.87, against \$4.11 last year.

The cost of elementary instruction in Prussia amounts to \$3,100,000 annually; the sum being covered by eleven and a half millions of marks from property and legacies, five and a third millions from state subventions, and the balance from communal grants.

Gratuitous instruction is given in seventeen out of the sixty towns in Prussia which count over 20,000 inhabitants.

The Pope in a letter addressed to the Cardinal-Vicar on the subject of Protestant schools in Rome laments that while in the public schools scarcely an hour or two are devoted to the Catholic Catechism, in those opened by Protestants the minds of youth are imbued with wicked doctrines in conformity with the heresies they teach. These schools are increased in number year by year by the work of strangers and by the aid of foreign gold. The Pope sets forth that he has named a commission of prelates and members of the Roman nobility, which, without interfering with existing Catholic institutions and the persons connected with them, shall assume the high direction and vigilance over all the Catholic elementary and primary schools, and, as far as the present condition of things permits, the common centre from which they will derive unity and increase.

Of Cornell University *The Elmira Gazette* says: "At the present time there are but 403 students of both sexes attending the University, and only about 350 young men, against about 700 when the experiment began. There have been valid attempts to prove that this falling off is due to other causes than the experiment of bi-sexual education, but the decrease in the number of students has been so regular at Cornell from 1872 to the present time, while at other colleges there has been but a slight falling off, that all efforts to ascribe any other reason have proved futile."

That President White should feel called upon to leave the University at this time, the lowest ebb of its fortunes, and, moreover, should intrust the management of affairs to a man who, during his former absence, incurred the cordial dislike of professors and students alike, is a matter of regret to those who have the best wishes of the University at heart. Altogether the prospects for Cornell's future are not all that heart could wish."

The Rev. A. D. Mayo says in *The National Journal of Education*, in the course of an article on the present economical fever in education: "One growing cause of the hostility to censorious school appropriations is the persistent efforts of certain ecclesiastical bodies to destroy the American system of public instruction. The bishops of the Roman Catholic Church, and a portion of the higher dignitaries of some Protestant Churches, are particularly at work to subvert the exploded system of European parochial instruction for the free schools. In numerous cities of the North, a portion of the children are first withdrawn into parochial schools, and then the Common Council or School Board is flooded with ward politicians, who make this removal an excuse for a destructive crippling of the common schools. Again and again has this been done. We are convinced that a great deal of the discontent with the high and normal schools that finds its way into the press is a manufactured discontent, steadily nursed by body of implacable foes to our whole system of instruction."

A Providence medical committee have made careful examination of the health of schoolchildren in that city. They state that children are admitted too young; that the vitiated air of the school-rooms causes consumption; that epidemic diseases are caught there, and that the premature development of the brain causes nervous diseases; that the young minds are crammed with much unintelligible matter, and that the method is too artificial; that the present system forms habits of indolence, and that the discontents arising from sedentary confinement are often the occasion for punishment, hatred for schools, and truancy. The committee holds that children should not be admitted in the schools under the age of seven. At whatever age they are admitted, the hours of confinement and intellectual effort should be greatly shortened. The children in primary schools should not be confined to their seats more than twenty minutes at a time, at the end of which they should enjoy an equal period of recreation, either in the open air or in an airy room, and mental and physical exercises should thenceforward alternate throughout the sessions. These changes, it is believed, would vastly improve the health of both scholar and teacher, can back the trust, and make the school in general agreeable rather than irksome.

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